

From: "Brelsford, Taylor" <taylor.brelsford@urs.com>
To: Fordham.Tami@epamail.epa.gov
Date: 2/12/2013 7:35:15 PM
Subject: RE: Donlin EIS: Summary feedback on Jan 27 - 31 meetings

Tami,

Thank you very sincerely for the thoughtfulness of your evaluation. I appreciate both your balance and regard for what we are trying to do, and your independent thinking in looking at what we can do better. Very, very helpful.

I do want to just double check one thing. Are these comments in a form that you are comfortable going to the lead and cooperating agencies? That was originally my intent, but I wanted to check.

Taylor Brelsford
Senior Environmental Scientist/Planner
URS Corporation
700 G St., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
Direct: 907-261-6705
Fax: 907-562-1297
Cell: 907-244-2992

From: Fordham.Tami@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Fordham.Tami@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 2:52 PM
To: Brelsford, Taylor
Cc: Jen.Mark@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: Donlin EIS: Summary feedback on Jan 27 - 31 meetings

Hi Taylor,

I apologize for taking so long to get this to you, but here are my thoughts based on the last round of meetings. I really appreciate your expertise and your knowledge of the region, including your connection to people in the region. In particular your finesse in tactfully herding the Agencies along in this process. My comments are meant to be constructive and not critical of anyone in this process. I know that everyone is adapting and improving as we go forward. I know you know all of this, but thought I would respond to your request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The comment forms are really helpful because they have the project website on them. They also serve as a reminder for where people can get more information and get updates throughout this process. Paper is a valuable resource but these are a very effective tool and I recommend ensuring that there are plenty of these available. There were not enough of the summary project newsletters to go around. People in the communities really appreciated having hard copies of the presentations, especially in the communities where Yup'ik is the first language. I recommend bringing more of these with you, as they were a hot item.

As we heard in the communities, Donlin Gold has been coming out for years and this is the first time they are starting to see the Corps and other Agencies show up to discuss this project. It is really critical for the meeting to start off with clarification about where we are in the process and why the Agencies are there. This is not something to just read from the powerpoint or speaker notes, but something to start with and ensure everyone gets this point before moving forward.

There needs to be more pauses (and longer pauses) for questions. If someone, especially an Elder or Tribal Leader asks a question anytime during the presentation - respond to the question. We (Agencies) are going in to their community and must respect their local protocols. This is the beginning of a multi-year process and this is the first start at building the relationship between the Agencies (in this case the lead Agency) and the communities. There may not be opportunities to go back to the same communities throughout the process and so there may need to be a reliance on other mechanisms of communication throughout, so taking the time to start this relationship off on a good start is important.

Translation - I know you intended to have the headsets from AVCP for these meetings, I recommend making sure you have
9/13/2018

them for the meetings coming up in Nelson Island area and out on the Coast. Otherwise, make the meeting time longer. In Nunapitchuk I was very grateful that Robert Nick was there and Moxie was there to translate but I felt we ran out of time for dialogue with the community. But we almost spent too much time having the government speak and not enough hearing from the community.

I also believe that if someone has a question and an Agency representative has an answer or a helpful response that will bring additional information to the community that this should be discussed. This is part of the exchange. I also think it is important for the Agencies to understand how much the communities do know and have the opportunity to really shape a meaningful EIS. I understand that these are scoping meetings and we want to take comments, but the Agencies must also learn to adapt to what works best for each community and this adaptation may need to happen on the fly. So, I encourage you to help out Don as much as possible (which you are doing a great job by the way & so is Moxie). You may find that going through the powerpoint is not the best approach for one community, so be prepared to do what is needed and what will work best for that particular community. Also, please remind Don to not interrupt people, just ask him to breathe a bit longer and wait before he thinks they are done. I believe David Gilila, Sr. was cut off in Akiak and didn't speak again because of this.

There were Elders present in Akiak that never said anything, I have to wonder if we asked them to share their concerns if they would have. Perhaps we can at least ask at the end, that way we don't assume that they didn't have anything to say. There were also tribal leaders present from different communities, some of them traveled by snow machine - some by plane. I think it is important for them to meet Don in person. We had a rush situation because of weather, which didn't leave a lot of ground time, and so perhaps this won't be an issue on future visits. I know that the opportunity has been given to communities to schedule G2G ahead of time and not all have decided to do that, however as we know the one on one meetings with AVCP, Kuskokwim Watershed Council, the Refuge and ONC were very successful. So, perhaps this will change for future meetings.

I appreciate Moxie's connections to the Region (and all of his pre-work) and it shows by the fact that people are showing up to these meetings. As someone who has done this work for various Agency trips to different parts of Alaska I know how much pre-planning goes into this and how much is dependent upon the relationship of the person asking for something and the person on the other end of the line in the community.

The posters worked in Akiak - so don't give up on them. Perhaps it was because of the size of the room and there was more space for this kind of interaction, or it just worked there.

The food worked, although it went really fast in Akiak. ;)

I really enjoyed being the person to greet people and sign them in, so I invite you to find someone to take this task on for the next meetings.

Lastly, I think we should take the time to ask the communities about how we can best engage them throughout this process. I have ideas for ways to meaningfully engage them between the end of scoping and the release of the draft EIS, but I would like to hear from them. They have vast experience and knowledge about their local environment, as well as about mining and other technical issues around the project. Perhaps this could be added to the scoping presentation.

Thanks for everything you are doing to help make this process as meaningful and effective as possible.

Respectfully,
Tami

~~Equality - With Great Respect for the People We Serve ~~~~~

Tami Fordham
Alaska Resource Extraction Tribal Policy Advisor
Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit
EPA Region 10 - Alaska Operations Office
222 W 7th Avenue #19
Anchorage, AK 99513-7588

Phone: 907-271-1484
TOLL FREE: 1-800-781-0983
Fax: 907-271-3424

Region 10 EPA Home Page
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

9/13/2018

"Brelsford, Taylor" ---02/01/2013 05:38:31 PM---Friends, I think it would be helpful to provide summary feedback on the meetings we attended this we

From: "Brelsford, Taylor" <taylor.brelsford@urs.com>
To: "Don Kuhle (Don.P.Kuhle@usace.army.mil)" <Don.P.Kuhle@usace.army.mil>, "Blanchard, Jenny H" <jblanchard@blm.gov>, Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, "jeff.bruno@alaska.gov" <jeff.bruno@alaska.gov>
Cc: "Alexie, Moxie" <moxie.alexie@urs.com>, "Enos, Robert" <renos@DonlinGold.com>
Date: 02/01/2013 05:38 PM
Subject: Donlin EIS: Summary feedback on Jan 27 - 31 meetings

Friends,

I think it would be helpful to provide summary feedback on the meetings we attended this week. I think it will help us to continue to adapt the meeting and planning designs to have your thoughts.

Please identify **3-5 items that went well**, and **3-5 items that could be improved**.

If you are comfortable with this, I would like to then circulate these to the cooperating agencies.

With the agency scoping meeting this week, on February 6th, we won't have another occasion to debrief on the most recent meetings. So, I hope that these summary feedback points would serve that purpose for the agencies that weren't able to travel with us.

Thank you.

Taylor Brelsford
Senior Environmental Scientist/Planner
URS Corporation
700 G St., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
Direct: 907-261-6705
Fax: 907-562-1297
Cell: 907-244-2992

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